

# **INTRODUCTION TO LAW AND LEGAL SYSTEM OF THE UNITED STATES**

Deusto University International Relations

International Virtual Campus

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Lecturer: Elena Oguiza, Juris Doctor

elena.oguiza@deusto.es

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## **UNIT I: INTRODUCTION**

### **Week 1**

Course expectations

Discussion: What is your idea of law?

Common & civil law

Eras of law in the US

Reception of English Law

## **UNIT II: THE GOVERNMENT OF THE USA**

### **Week 2**

Distinct features of US Law

Dual sovereignty

Federalism

### **Week 3**

Executive Branch

Legislative Branch

Judicial Branch

Judicial Review – Marbury v Madison

Legal Profession: Ethics Rules

## **UNIT III: FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS**

### **Week 4**

The United States Constitution

Fundamental Rights and Freedoms

### **Week 5**

Speech, Bear Arms

Equal Protection

Due Process

### **Week 6**

Citizenship

Privileges and immunities

Remedies

## **UNIT IV: LITIGATION**

### **Week 7**

Civil legal process - how cases proceed through system

Legal Aid

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Crimes and Rights of Accused Criminals

Capital punishment

Habeas Corpus

## UNIT V: BUSINESS LAW

### Week 8

Business entities  
Business Ethics  
Commercial Law  
Global Commerce  
Competition law/Antitrust

## UNIT VI: CONTRACTS AND TORTS

### Week 9

Obligations - voluntary and involuntary  
Intro to Contract Law  
Elements of contracts  
Contracts for the sale of goods  
Remedies

### Week 10

Intro to Tort Law  
Intentional torts  
Negligence  
Strict Liability  
Property Torts  
Defamation

## UNIT VII: PROPERTY LAW

### Week 11

Real Property  
Land use  
Ownership  
Transactions  
Landlord/tenant  
Constitutional protections  
Personal Property  
Finders, bailments, conversion  
Inheritances

## UNIT VIII: If time permits

Marriage and family law  
Administrative law  
Law of Agency/Employment

## REVISE/REVIEW/ASSESSMENT

- No reading
- Final Assessment

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**Text:** Thomas J. Schoenbaum, The Law and Legal System of the United States, ed 2021

### Videos:

Witness for Prosecution	Anatomy of a murder
Kill a Mockingbird	12 Angry Men
The Corporation	The Smartest Guys in the Room
BP: 30 Billion Dollar Blowout	Bowling for Columbine

*\*Other materials to be determined by professor*